

Stop Search Community Scrutiny Panel

Minutes



Thursday 1st July 2021, 18:30 – 20:00

Skype

Attendees:

Panel Members: Robin Agascar, Gareth Kitchen, Richard Townshend, Steve Talbot, John Sharrock, Sarah Dixon

Police Officers and Staff: A/Insp. Ash Shingler, PS Grant White, Annabel Staley

Apologies: Kay Selwyn, Susan Taylor

Minutes: Annabel Staley

All panel members introduced themselves. They decided to first look at Stop Searches carried out in Stroud between 1st May 2021 and 1st July 2021.

129369

Date: June 2021

Time: 19:10 – 19:15

Gender: Male

Ethnicity: White

Age: over 18

Location: Stroud

Grounds: During foot patrol, officers walked past two males and there was a strong smell of cannabis coming from one male. One stated "I smoked a joint earlier".

Legislation: Sec.23: Misuse of Drugs Act 1971

Outcome: Caution – a single cigarette, a mix of tobacco and cannabis, was seized.

Panel Decision: **GREEN**

129414

Date: June 2021

Time: 18:28 – 19:15

Gender: Male

Ethnicity: Mixed: White and Black Caribbean

Age: under 18

Location: Stroud

Grounds: Officers spotted a group of youths and could see them smoking something. Officers could smell cannabis coming from their direction.

Legislation: Sec.23: Misuse of Drugs Act 1971

Outcome: NFA

Panel Decision: **GREEN**

129412

Date: June 2021

Time: 18:28 – 19:15

Gender: Male

Ethnicity: White

Age: under 18

Location: Stroud



Grounds: Officers have spotted a group of youths and could see them smoking something. Officers could smell cannabis coming from their direction.

Legislation: Sec.23: Misuse of Drugs Act 1971

Outcome: NFA

Panel Decision: **GREEN**

129410

Date: June 2021

Time: 18:28 – 19:15

Gender: Male

Ethnicity: Not Stated

Age: over 18

Location: Stroud

Grounds: Officers have spotted a group of youths and could see them smoking something. Officers could smell cannabis coming from their direction.

Legislation: Sec.23: Misuse of Drugs Act 1971

Outcome: NFA

Panel Decision: **GREEN**

129213

Date: May 2021

Time: 19:25 – 20:00

Gender: Male

Ethnicity: White

Age: over 18

Location: Berkeley

Grounds: An individual admitted that he had just been smoking cannabis. There were two joints of cannabis on the floor which the individual admitted to owning. Intelligence linked the individual to drug dealing in Berkeley.

Legislation: Sec.23: Misuse of Drugs Act 1971

Outcome: Arrested – found numerous items associated with the use and distribution of cannabis including a blue grinder, a set of scales and a black rucksack containing multiple bags.

Panel Decision: **GREEN**

129229

Date: May 2021

Time: 15:45 – 15:50

Gender: Male

Ethnicity: White

Age: under 18

Location: Stonehouse

Grounds: RTC involving a car hitting a lamppost. 4 males ran from the scene but they were all detained and there was a strong smell of cannabis coming from the car. One male was in possession of an empty grinder.

Legislation: Sec.23: Misuse of Drugs Act 1971

Outcome: Arrested

Panel Decision: **GREEN**

129230

Date: May 2021

Time: 13:05 – 13:05

Gender: Male



Ethnicity: White

Age: over 18

Location: Berkeley

Grounds: A male was acting in a disorderly manner and making fantastical claims. The male had spoken about the possession of drugs.

Legislation: Sec.23: Misuse of Drugs Act 1971

Outcome: NFA

Panel Decision: **GREEN**

129237

Date: May 2021

Time: 19:34 – 19:43

Gender: Male

Ethnicity: White

Age: over 18

Location: Berkeley

Grounds: Officers saw a male getting out of a car who was known by police to have no insurance. There was also a strong smell of cannabis. As officers approached the other male, he dropped a joint and claimed it was not his.

Legislation: Sec.23: Misuse of Drugs Act 1971

Outcome: NFA – 2 joints and a grinder was seized

Panel Discussion: The panel asked if the officers were wearing BWV and PS White confirmed that they were.

Panel Decision: **GREEN**

129257

Date: May 2021

Time: 17:05 – 17:15

Gender: Female

Ethnicity: White

Age: over 18

Location: Dursley

Grounds: There was intelligence that the vehicle and the driver's boyfriend were involved with the supply of drugs. Before being stopped, the car was seen to go home, see police and carry on instead. This raised suspicion that there was enough time for the driver to pass the passenger any items. When stopped, the passenger was eager to get inside the address and not speak to the police.

Legislation: Sec.23: Misuse of Drugs Act 1971

Outcome: NFA

Panel Discussion: These grounds were very difficult to understand and caused some confusion amongst the panel. It seems that the passenger was stopped but the driver was not, which the panel questioned. What were the grounds to stop and search the woman if the marker was on the driver instead? Why was the car not stopped? A number of assumptions had to be made to understand this incident. The panel needed further information on the intelligence that led the car to be followed.

Panel Decision: **AMBER**

The panel decided to change and look at Stop Searches related to Firearms.

129452

Date: June 2021

Time: 17:35 – 17:35

Gender: Male



Ethnicity: Asian
Age: over 18
Location: M5 motorway
Grounds: Information to suggest that the vehicle and occupants were involved in the sale of firearms.
Legislation: Sec.47: Firearms Act 1968
Outcome: NFA
Panel Decision: **GREEN**

129393

Date: June 2021
Time: 17:35 – 17:35
Gender: Male
Ethnicity: Asian: Pakistani
Age: over 18
Location: M5 motorway
Grounds: The vehicle had a marker on PNC from West Midlands Police stating that it was being used for dealing and firearms were carried.
Legislation: Sec.47: Firearms Act 1968
Outcome: Other – cannabis seized
Panel Discussion: The panel asked how long the marker would stay on the vehicle. PS White confirmed that markers are regularly reviewed based on available intelligence. The panel also asked whether it is possible to check if a vehicle has a marker on before purchasing it. PS White said this is not possible but the marker is regularly reviewed.
Panel Decision: **GREEN**

The panel asked if there was an update on the actions generated from the meeting in May.

Minutes from the 6th May:

129192

Date: May 2021
Time: 1100 – 1121
Sex: Female
Ethnicity: White
Age: over 18
Location: Michinhampton
Grounds: Vehicle registered out of force. Occupants recorded on PNC for a variety of offences. Stopped and detained on royal estate protected by police. Assisting the Metropolitan Police.
Legislation: Sec.43: Terrorism Act 2000
Outcome: NFA
Panel Decision: The panel asked for more information about why they were stopped. This incident is restricted so no further details could be obtained. **Action:** A/Insp. Shingler will ask to view the restricted incident and will report back. **AMBER**

A/Insp. Shingler informed the panel that incidents are restricted because there is one master incident that is logged every day for the royal houses. They then update the incident regularly throughout the day.

The panel stated that they still felt that they did not have enough information and would like to know about the 'variety of offences' leading to the stop. However, A/Insp. Shingler advised that this information may not be available as we recorded this stop search on behalf of the Met Police.



Action: Robin Agascar to send A/Insp. Shingler the names of the officers involved in the Stop Search.

Action: A/Insp. Shingler to gather more information on the incident to discuss at the next meeting.

Minutes from the 6th May:

129028

Date: April 2021

Time: 1226 – 1227

Sex: Male

Ethnicity: White

Age: under 18

Location: Gloucester

Grounds: Lone male seen walking around videoing a police building. When asked who he was, the male would not give a name or say why he was videoing police buildings.

Legislation: Sec.43: Terrorism Act 2000

Outcome: NFA

Panel Decision: The panel had differing views on the decision to S&S this male. Some members felt the reaction was too strong and that the male should be completely free to film on public property.

*Others believed it was fair to challenge and, as the male did not provide his details, move to a search. **Action:** A/Insp. Shingler to see if anymore information can be obtained about this S&S.*

AMBER

A/Insp. Shingler asked the officers involved for further information. They advised that the male was videoing a number of police buildings and when asked why, he would not engage with the officers. The officers described their thought process for selecting the above legislation. After the search, the male became more talkative and stated that he was filming for YouTube.

A panel member asked why the officer assumed this male was a terrorist. A/Insp. Shingler advised that the individual had considered which power was most appropriate. Further, A/Insp. Shingler informed the group that ultimately, this is no more serious than stopping an individual using any other legislation. This is a less intrusive method of dealing with a situation without the need to immediately arrest them.

A panel member questioned whether this was the appropriate response considering the age of the individual. However, others explained that this is a very vulnerable age and thus, age should not be considered a factor. The majority of the panel were happy with the response to this stop search.

The panel also asked whether progress had been made with regards to scrutinising the BWV for Stop Searches. A/Insp. Shingler advised that this is difficult online but asked the panel to select 2 from today's meeting, which he will attempt to share with the panel members that have been vetted. The decision was made to review numbers 129257 and 129230.

Action: Annabel Staley to ask CI Pegler for an update on his actions from the previous meeting.

Meeting Ends
